



Investigating the Historical Trends of Nurse Practitioners in Ontario

What you need to know:

In order to meet the burgeoning need of sustainable access to health care, the Nurse Practitioner (NP) role has emerged in Ontario's health care system because of their widening scope of practice and ability to provide high quality care^{1,2}. NPs are registered nurses (extended class) with the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO), who have advanced university preparation and the ability to diagnose, prescribe, and order/interpret diagnostic tests.

Historically, the role of the NP in Ontario has been subject to political and social trends that have influenced the use and sustainability of the role^{3,4}. This lack of continuity highlights the need to investigate the historical trends of NPs in Ontario to better understand the current NP workforce and anticipate needs and barriers to the workforce in the future.

What are the historical trends of Nurse Practitioners in Ontario?

What will we do?

The purpose of this project is to investigate the historical trends of NPs in Ontario to better understand the NP workforce. This project will also help identify missing variables that may need to be collected in future registration data in order to further understand the NP workforce. Data used for this project will be the College of Nurses of Ontario database, across all accessible years over the past 15 years. Variables of interest will include demographic and registration data, including age, years of registration, level and place of education, registration outside of Ontario, gender, employment sector, employment organization and other variables that may be of interest.



Why are we conducting this research?

In order to ensure a stable workforce for better patient outcomes, it is important to have a sound understanding of the NP workforce. To date, little has been reported on the historical trends of NPs despite an increasing use and demand for their services. This project will produce a Research to Action fact sheet, a forum or webinar and published manuscript. Knowledge gained from this project will be part of a larger knowledge translation strategy.

What did we find?

This study is currently in development.

About the Researchers:

Principle Investigator:

Brianna Orava NP, PhD Student
brianna.julien@utoronto.ca

Ann Tourangeau RN PhD, Associate Professor, Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto
Ann is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Toronto, and an adjunct scientist at ICES.
ann.tourangeau@utoronto.ca

How was this project funded?

Funding for this knowledge translation project is being provided through the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care.

Where can you find more information about this project?

Information regarding this project and other resources is available on www.tourangeauresearch.com

Project is currently:

In development

¹ Naylor, M.D., & Kurtzman, E.T. (2010). The role of nurse practitioners in reinventing primary care. *Health Affairs*, 20(5), 893-899.

² Ontario Nurses Association (ONA). (2010). *Nurse practitioners moving to the forefront to improve access to care*. Retrieved from: <http://www.ona.org/documents/File/frontlines/FrontLines-201010>

³ Fiscella, K. (2011). Health care reform and equity: Promise, pitfalls, and prescriptions. *Annals of Family Medicine*, 9, 78-84.

⁴ Nurse Practitioner Association of Ontario (NPAO). (2013). History of NP role development in Ontario. Retrieved from: <http://npao.org/wpcontent/uploads/2011/07/Timeline-ofimportant-4.pdf>